Gauge Conversion project (89 kms.). The cost of this project is estimated at Rs. 80 crore.

(c) (i) *Haridaspur-Paradip New Line.*

Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition plans and papers have been submitted to the State Government. An amount of Rs. 5 crore has been remitted with the State Government for land acquisition. Land has been acquired for 10 km. of alignment in patches. Preliminary works have been taken up and work on this line is being regulated as per the availability of resources.

(ii) *Rupsa-Bangriposi Gauge Conversion.*

Widening of formation and construction of pre-cast concrete boxes for all the minor bridges between Rupsa and Baripada (51 km.) have been completed. Further work is being progressed according to availability of resources.

(d) No target dates of completion for these two projects have been fixed up as yet.

Action on Rakesh Mohan Committee Report

3929. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rakesh Mohan Committee Report has suggested that there should be regulatory body for Railways that would work out the tariff policy and would also look into the issues of corporatisation and privatisation;

(b) whether there is any opposition to this Report in the Ministry; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the status of this Report and whether Government have taken any decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The report of the Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan is yet to be received. However, an Interim Executive Summary has been received on 17.2.2001. One of the recommendations in the Interim Executive

Summary includes Institutional Separation of roles into policy, regulatory and management functions. This will mean:

(i) Policy makers are limited to setting policy (and paying for what they ask for). The Government of India will be in charge of setting policy direction.

(ii) Provide operational autonomy and insulate Indian Railways by Corporatising it into "Indian Railways Corporation" (IRC). It would be governed by a reconstituted Indian Railways Executive Board.

(iii) Set up an Indian Rail Regulatory Authority to regulate IRC's activities as a monopoly supplier of rail services particularly related to tariff setting.

The Interim Executive Summary is under examination.

Railway Projects/Surveys in Himachal Pradesh and J and K

3930. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved regarding completion of ongoing Railway projects/surveys in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir as on date, Project-wise and State-wise;

(b) the funds earmarked and expenditure incurred thereon, till date, project-wise, in each State; and

(c) by when the ongoing projects/surveys are likely to be completed in those States?